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Office of the Secretary,
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

February 23, 2004

Dear Secretary,

I am writing this letter to **strongly object** to the proposed abandonment of a 3.7 mile rail right-of-way in Northampton County, Pennsylvania by Pennsylvania Lines, LLC, and the discontinuance of service on same, by Norfolk Southern Railway Company, subsidiaries of Norfolk Southern Corporation. The abandonment petition is docketed as No. AB-859 (Sub-No IX) as to Pennsylvania Lines, LLC (PRR) and proceeding No. AB-290 (Sub No 245X) as to Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR).

This piece of rail right of way is the only remaining railroad link between the Delaware Valley (Philadelphia area) and the Lehigh Valley (Allentown/Bethlehem/Easton). The proposed abandonment will forever eliminate any future passenger or freight rail service between these two areas.

Norfolk Southern Corp, instead of abandoning this line, would best serve the community, the corporation itself in the future, as well as future rail passengers and freight customers by simply retaining the property as-is, keeping it "out of service".

Some parties may say that the ROW may not be built upon, and may allow future rail service on the property, however, in practice, this is not the case. It would be extremely difficult, costly, and perhaps simply impossible for reactivation of rail service in the future. This is a short-sighted, penny-wise, and pound-foolish decision by PRR and NSR

In conclusion, I urge you to not allow this abandonment to proceed.

Sincerely,



Robert Montgomery

Cc: James R Paschali, Norfolk Southern Corp.
Donald Nigro, Delaware Valley Association of Rail Passengers

2/02/03

